MR. T. P. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*) : (1) (*a*) The Ettumanur-Vaikam road in the section from Kadutturutti to Vaikam gets submerged and damaged when heavy floods and breaches occur in the adjoining Ittipuzha river. This was the case after the heavy floods in Karkatakam 1099 and the road was restored as expeditiously as possible. The outlay incurred was Rs. 1,465.

(*b*) Some interruption to traffic is caused when such damages occur.

(2) The flood banks of the adjoining river have been strengthened in 1100 and 1101 and the other weak banks which got breached in Karkatakam 1101 will also be restored and strengthened without delay. Every endeavour is being made to keep the road fit for cart traffic.

Forest Working Plans.

215. **MR. K. K. THOMAS** (*Kottayam*): Will the Government be pleased to state :

(1) the object in framing a working plan for forest exploitation ;

(2) the cost to the Government on account of the same ;

(3) whether they have been strictly adhering to the working plans in their method of work ; and

(4) if the answer to part (3) is in the negative, the reasons for the departure ?

MR. T. P. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): (1) The object in framing working plans for forest exploitation is to bring all important forests under systematic management and working in order to ensure continuity of action and to provide against the deterioration of the stock in an orderly and economic manner.

(2) The cost of preparing working plans varies as it depends upon the kind of the forests for which they are prepared and also on the elaborateness or otherwise of the plan.

(3) and (4) As far as possible, working plans are being strictly adhered to. But the plans are in their nature ideal and theoretical as the sylvicultural characteristics of the trees are unknown and they are prepared for periods extending over several decades. The prescriptions of the plan have, therefore, to be revised in some cases in the light of actual experience gained and such revision is necessary and advisable at frequent intervals. It has to be remarked that systematic working of these forests is an innovation and the same is still in the primitive stage. The necessity for the revision of the working plans has been anticipated and provided for in the Forest Code.

Qualifications for appointments and Promotions in the Survey Department.

216. **MR. K. MADHAVAN PILLAI** (*Trivandrum* cum *Neduvangad*): Will the Government be pleased to state :

(*a*) whether preferential treatment in the matter of appointments and promotions is being given in the Survey Department to men who have taken the "Head Surveyors' and Sub-Assistants' Tests" qualifications of Madras ; and

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